

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-24, 26-28, and 34-37 are pending. Claims 6, 12, 14, 18, 21, 24, and 26-28 have been amended. Claims 29-33 have been canceled.

Claims 12-17, 21-24, and 26-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The claims as amended and presented herein are submitted to be in proper form.

Claims 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

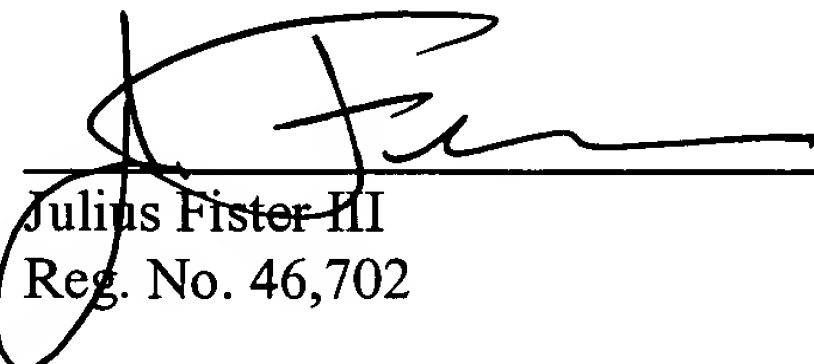
Claims 29-33 are canceled without prejudice and without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection. Applicants maintain the right to pursue the canceled claims and/or subject matter in this or a continuing application.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed due other than for an extension of time, which fee is authorized on the accompanying fee sheet. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 10, 2004

  
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